

March 12, 2022

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing **in support** of S.B. No. 387: An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee which has been brought forward by that committee.

I **strongly opposed** the following bills that are coming before the Judiciary Committee which, as I understand, have NOT been brought forward by the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee:

S.B. No. 365: An Act Concerning Juvenile and Criminal Justice Reforms

S.B. No. 388: An Act Concerning the Defense of a Person or a Person's Dwelling, Place of Work or Motor Vehicle

H.B. No. 5418: An Act Revising Juvenile and Criminal Justice Statutes and Insurance Statutes Concerning Theft of a Motor Vehicle

S.B. No. 392: An Act Concerning Statements Made by Juveniles

H.B. No. 5417: An Act Concerning Juvenile Justice and Services and Firearms Background Checks

S.B. No. 386: An Act Concerning a Study of the Juvenile Delinquency Laws of this State.

I have been a resident of West Hartford, Connecticut for more than 40 years. I am a member of Hartford Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) which is a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA).

As a resident of West Hartford, I am very concerned that the bills I oppose (above) may be passed as a knee-jerk reaction to a misinformation campaign being waged in this State about rising crime being committed by youth. This claim of rising crime by youth is being pressed by individuals who seem to be against the strides that have been made for racial justice particularly through the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee which has recommended sound strategies for successfully and safely reducing the juvenile justice system and expanding preventive services for youth throughout Connecticut. The bills I oppose are detrimental policy proposals that would do harm to our youth and would set our State back in dealing with the youth in our State. If you have time, please view the video produced by the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance at <https://vimeo.com/686784926> which is informative about the misinformation campaign going on in our State (and is only 8 minutes long).

I am **especially opposed to S.B. No 388** which "strengthens the right to self-defense by creating a presumption that it is reasonable to believe physical force is necessary to defend oneself, or another person, from someone who has unlawfully entered one's dwelling, place of work or motor vehicle. Victims of violent crime who respond with defensive force while protecting themselves or their loved ones should not have to face the additional threat of criminal or civil prosecution". I am **strongly opposed** to empowering individual citizens to respond violently (with guns or otherwise) in a supposed criminal situation. We should not empower citizens of Connecticut to be vigilantes – using weapons against others (we do not want to condone citizens behaving the way the men did in the Arnaud Arbury case).

I urge you to have all bills/legislative proposals about youth and crime vetted by and proposed by the Juvenile Justice and Policy Oversight Committee.

Thank you,
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